



FACT SHEET



BMDO FACT SHEET JN-00-04

NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAM EVOLUTION

INTRODUCTION

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO) has designed the United States Nation Missile Defense (NMD) to be flexible and evolutionary. To execute the program, BMDO established an NMD Joint Program Office (JPO) to manage multiple-Service participation. Initial deployment of NMD is expected in 2005. This first deployment, Capability 1 (C1) will be a limited capability of only about 20 interceptor missiles in response to a threat which also is currently projected to be limited. However, the NMD JPO will continue to improve technologies and integrate improved elements into the system if the threat increases. This degree of program flexibility is essential in the present world situation; we do not know who will threaten us or with what kinds of ballistic missiles.

HISTORY

The need for this kind of defense program flexibility is nothing new. Since the 1970s, changes in defense missions and in the systems designed to implement them have occurred every few years. The evolution of the program through the last four changes, which took place from 1987 to 1999, is summarized below. During that decade, NMD missions evolved from a deterrence enhancing role against a massive threat, requiring large numbers of defense interceptors, to a protection role against small threats.

THE NMD PROGRAM

To meet the challenge of uncertainties about the threat characteristics and time scale extant in 1996, DoD established

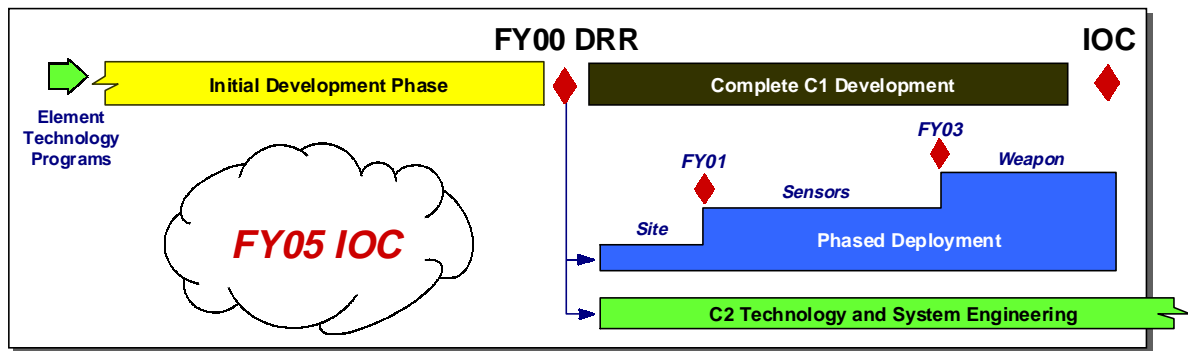
NMD Program	Mission	Defense
Phase I (1987-1989)	Enhance deterrence of a Soviet first strike	1000s of interceptors, ground and space based
Global Protection Against Limited Strikes (GPALS) (1989-1992)	Protect against accidental or unauthorized launch	100s of interceptors, ground and space based
Technology Readiness (1993-1995)	Prepare technology to reduce deployment time	Ground based system, deployment not considered
Deployment Readiness - "3+3" (1996-1999)	Integrate systems; prepare to deploy three years after a future decision	10s of interceptors, ground based only
NMD Acquisition (1999-2005)	Prepare for initial deployment in 2005	10s of interceptors, ground based only

The first four programmatic re-directions occurred three to four years apart and resulted in major program changes - but no deployment decision

JANUARY 2000

FORGING AMERICA'S SHIELD

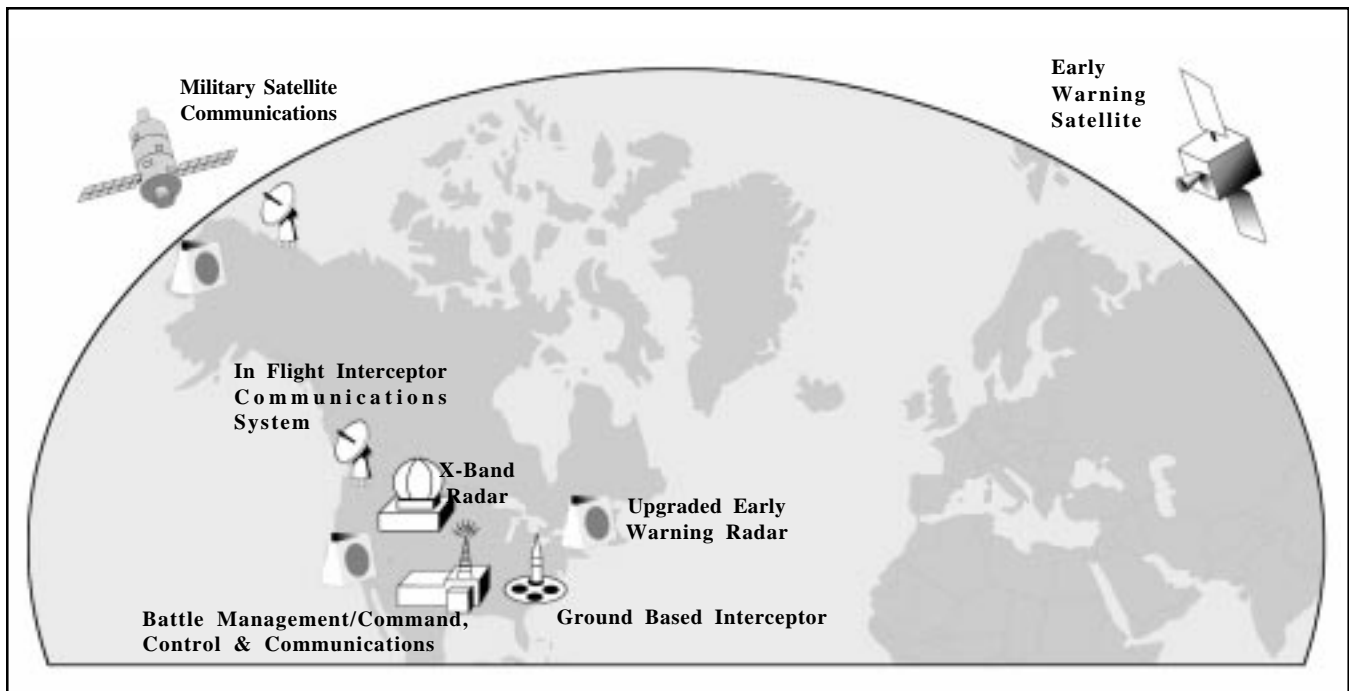
NMD Program



NMD as a Major Defense Acquisition Program and Deployment Readiness Program. The program, called “3+3,” was to develop a NMD system capable of being deployed within three years after a deployment decision at a Deployment Readiness Review (DRR) in 2000. The DRR criteria are: existence of a threat and technological capability to proceed. In January 1999, the Secretary of Defense announced that the threat criteria would soon be met. Funds are now programmed to move NMD from the development phase to a deployment phase should we be directed to do so, as shown in Figure 1. To reduce program risks, the NMD now projects initial deployment in 2005 rather than 2003. As before, the decision to deploy will be made at the DRR in 2000.

ARCHITECTURE

Shown below is the initial architecture to be developed within the NMD program which is associated with the deployment decision in 2000. It will be deployed in a configuration that is designed specifically for the threat it will have to defend against.



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